City of Houston Municipal Art
www.houstonmunicipalart.org

Neuhaus Fountain (Three Coyotes)

PUBLIC ART COLLECTION IDENTIFICATION SUMMARY	
	Number: 0001
	Artist: Murrill, Gwynn
	Title: Neuhaus Fountain (Three Coyotes)
	Date: 1992
	Type: Sculpture
	Medium: Bronze
	Dimensions: NA
	Foundry/Fabricator: Artist
	Location/Environment: Sam Houston Park, Outdoors
	Provenance: Donated to the City of Houston by Hugo Victor Neuhaus, Jr.

Historical Background

On September 17, 1992, through a bequest of the late architect and philanthropist Hugo Victor Neuhaus, Jr., the City of Houston received a gift of a peaceful refuge that marks the juncture between the corporate downtown landscape and Houston's origins along Buffalo Bayou.

Hugo Victor Neuhaus, Jr. dedicated the *Neuhaus Fountain* to the memory of his parents, Hugo Victor Neuhaus, Sr. and Kate Rice Neuhaus because he felt that it reflected the Neuhaus lifelong commitment to the cultural life of the City.

John Cutler, of the SWA Group, was the landscape architect for the fountain and describes the scene as a loosened up version of the initial circular design, which was affected by both the final site and the sculpture selection. Three bronze coyotes created by California sculptor Gwynn Murrill.

Physical Description

Murrill is known for her animals (primarily canines and felines) and low reliefs

The sculpture, *Three Coyotes*, consists of three different coyotes that are placed in the same general area of the fountain. Each animal is presumably part of a pack and is depicted in its own space and action (one is sniffing the ground, one is surveying the surroundings and one is pausing and turning, as if to beckon to the other coyotes that they must move one to better hunting grounds).

The artist rendered the forms of *Three Coyotes* as life size and the lines of the animals are streamlined, smooth and simple.

The animals are recognizable as coyotes, but have been abstracted to basic, idealized forms in action that characterize the coyotes in a style reminiscent of ancient Egyptian animal forms.

Restoration / Conservation

Neuhaus Fountain was restored in 1997 and is one of the sculptures maintained by the SOS! program.